SOUND THE TRUMPET IN PRAYER

**And if you go to war in your land against the enemy that oppresseth you, then ye shall blow an alarm with the trumpets; and ye shall be remembered before the Lord your God, and ye shall be saved from your enemies (Numbers 10:9).**

Grievous Things

Scripture tells us that we are allowed to be angry, but we are not allowed to sin. How much destructive behavior is a result of anger? More than one might think. Ecclesiastes 7:9 says, *“Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools”.* Scripture also admonishes, *“Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shall not go” (Proverbs 22:24).* There are countless individuals in spiritual and physical bondage due to the company they kept or keep. It is only fair to say that ALL will encounter this dangerous human emotion on some level. Sure it varies according to upbringing, personality, life circumstances; but no one is immune to a battle with anger. It is written, *“Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath”.* And look at this---“*Neither give place to the devil”.* When anger is allowed to remain in our spirit, we give place to the devil! This word “place”, as used in this scripture means, license, room or quarter. So satan is given the right to do whatever he wants in our lives when anger is in control. We allow him to live with us. And look at one of the behaviors that “giving place” to the devil leads to---*“Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth” (Ephesians4:26-28).* Also mentioned are: corrupt communication, grieving the Holy Spirit, bitterness, clamour (tumult), and evil speaking. We are told to do that which is good and forgive.

There are many who have been provoked to anger since childhood by absent or abusive fathers, abuse, neglect, etc. For this reason they begin life angry, and life doesn’t get any better. Anger must be managed through forgiveness. Colossians 3:21 says, “*Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged”.* Discouraging situations also lead to anger and strife. Loss of loved ones, possessions, opportunities, time with parents, financial hardships; the list goes on and on. The things that provoke to anger are intrinsic to all. We are as different as snowflakes, with one common denominator---the human experience. And it is a fact, life happens to all.

So what applies to you? Who has been hurt or rejected by a parent, family member or friend? Who has been involved in gangs, thrown under the bus by a gang chief, serving a life or near life sentence because of this person you were faithful to and trusted? While these examples may seem to be from one extreme to another; they are real reasons for internal, destructive anger; which will result in destructive behavior if not dealt with in a Biblical manner. Let’s go to the other end of the spectrum, while seemingly less traumatic, words are equally destructive. Did somebody say something about you? Or did some “so-called friend” tell you somebody said something about you. The latter “friend” mentioned may be the worst kind you can have, but guess what? For your own sake, you must forgive them too! Avoid listening to or accepting words spoken that cause strife. There is scripture that says not to worry about what someone has said against you because you know in your heart that you have spoken evil of someone at one time or another (see Ecclesiastes 7:21-22).

Do you have a Saul like David did? Someone who you treated like a father or put your best foot forward for, and they returned your kindness and good efforts with evil? Regardless of present circumstance, there will come a day of reckoning and redemption. Why not live in peace and freedom of heart and mind in this present age? There are many grievous things, but if we choose to live according to Biblical principal, we can make it. We can make our time here better, and be a positive influence to others. No one likes to be the victim of an angry person, neither do they deserve to. Let’s live like overcomers, and put every grievous thing under our feet! BME

WORDS FROM BEHIND THE WALL

OUR STRENGTH OUR GOD

The world has a way of pushing us. Every day I must fight temptations, and some fights I lose. The wonderful thing about living for Christ is that we accept that we aren’t perfect, and we always need His help. It’s hard to predict the right actions. At times emotions take over, but even after failure, we can come to Him for comfort. I admit the Lord has directed my life for the better, and even though I still make mistakes, the difference now is how I bounce back and keep moving. **William Moctezuma**

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WEAPONS OF WARFARE

Lately I’ve been watching the news, and there have been a lot of shootings in the city. The way our kids are living is what I call “modern age terrorism”. Due to the lewd sex acts and drugs that satan is putting in front of our kids, we see a lot of rampant crime. With worldwide unbelief, we are surely seeing an evil day. Each Christian urgently needs “the whole armor of God” to stand against the devils wiles today (Ephesians 6:14-18). It seems that satan’s wiles have confused us. How much better to be undergirded with revealed truth founded on creation and Biblical accuracy. The breastplate of righteousness is the true peace of God. The shield is faith, which must be exercised first of all (Hebrews 11:3). The helmet protecting the mind is the hope of salvation (I Thessalonians 5:8). Consistent prayer is both an offensive and defensive weapon. The “weapons of our warfare” are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds (II Corinthians 10:4). **Charles Moctezuma**

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THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

A missionary who was heavy on saying “thou shall not” was preaching to an elderly African chief. When he finished, the chief said”: “You mean I can’t steal my neighbor’s wife? Or his cattle? Or ambush and kill my enemies anymore? Exactly, said the missionary. Sadly, the chief replied, “but I can’t do those things anyway. I’m too old”! It sounds to me like being old, and being a Christian are the same thing. “Pray for all humans and animals alike in Africa”! It’s a common misconception. People think the Ten Commandments steal the joy from life instead of adding to it. But that was never God’s plan. God intended them to be timeless principles that make your life richer and more fulfilling. After all, don’t things go better when you love God, respect your parents, and are truthful and kind? We talk about breaking the Ten Commandments, but actually they’re unbreakable. It you jumped from a forty storey balcony, you’d be defying the law of gravity, but the law of gravity wouldn’t be broken, you would! Just as there are indestructible scientific laws, God’s commandments are unshakable, unchangeable, spiritual principles that are more dependable than natural laws. They aren’t just suggestions, they’re rules! God said, “I have spoken to you from heaven”. So that makes them important! During the rest of this year, I will write articles about the Ten Commandments. Numbers one through three will deal with our love for God; the fourth will be about our church. Then the fifth, and seventh will be about our families. Then the sixth, eighth, ninth, and tenth will be about how to treat others. And they’re still rules for quality living!  **Brandy Holmes**

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BE HUMBLE

Prison and jail time is a mixed bag. Time is a mixed bag. On the one hand it gives one time to think; to figure out that the old life was fun, but only while it lasted. It gives time to realize that there were many casualties as well---not only you yourself, but also your friends and family. On the other hand, prison or jail does not equip you to return to society. Why? Let me tell you something that you don’t know. You are lucky if you are able to get an education, even luckier to have a trade that you can use on the outside. As you can read in this issue, you will read of the harm it causes your family---especially your children. So, if you are going to be able to succeed out here in this world, it is going to take some humility on your part. You have to realize that you can’t do it alone. You also have to realize that you can’t automatically get what you think you need…you have to be patient. A brother of mine, who is struggling, wrote me of how frustrating it was when his family told him to go and get a job. He said it was frustrating because there were no jobs. He said that it shouldn’t be a statement, but a question---how can I get a job? The truth is somewhere in between: you have to look for a job to get one, but also the truth is that there are not that many jobs. So what’s in my message? I guess that you can’t go it alone, be humble and patient, and know that you can make it. If you don’t support your family, someone else will take that place. So if you find a job, hold it tight. If you don’t you might end up here.

**Manual Malave**

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NO MATTER

I’m urging readers to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. For this is the best way to discern false teaching. No matter where you are in your spiritual journey, no matter how mature we are in our faith, the sinful world will always challenge our faith. Yes! We still have much room for growth so every day we need to draw closer to Christ so that we will be prepared to stand for truth in all and any circumstances. Here is a tip to all the readers. Knowledge is power; the better we know Jesus, the less attractive false teaching will be. I love you all. Stay strong in the Lord. Sounding off ☺ **Patrick Douglas**

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FOR A MERE MOMENT

There are many times we feel alone or even abandoned. Some of us are far away from our loved ones. We might not have seem them or heard from them in quite a while. We can’t see them as often or even talk to them like we would want to. Sometimes we feel our Lord Jesus is far from us. Recently, I felt that way, that I was distant from God. I was not feeling His presence close to me. I prayed, read His word, cried out to Him, but still I felt I was not as close to Him as I was a few weeks ago. As Christians, we have times we feel alone, far from God. However, it is the opposite. He is closer than ever before. “For a mere moment, I have forsaken you, but with great mercies I will gather you” (Isaiah 54:7). **Ernesto J. Irizarry**

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FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

Happy birthday to everyone with May/June birthdays! I want to thank Gary Huff, and all the inmates who have given sacrificially to the Rose Memorial Fund. You have helped make the mailing of the newsletter possible. For more information about the Rose Memorial Fund, and past and current issues of the newsletter, please visit the website at [www.inspirationalwordsforinmatesandtheirfamilies.yolasite.com](http://www.inspirationalwordsforinmatesandtheirfamilies.yolasite.com). **Beth Marie Evans**

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**Inmates, please submit your inspirational thoughts for Words from Behind the Wall to Beth Marie Evans, C/O International Christian Fellowship, 9146 Lincoln Avenue, Brookfield IL 60513. Office Phone: 708-387-9009.**